

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 AID-05 IGA-02 /091 W

----- 029641

R 161213Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1316

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 0752

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: PRESS ON US MILITARY AID TO EPMG

1. COLUMN IN DAILY "AL AYAM" OF MARCH 12 BY AL SIR HASSAN FADL, WHO OFTEN WRITES CONTROVERSIAL AND MISCHIEVOUS PIECES, DISCUSSES MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN TERMS OF USG DESIRE MAINTAIN BALANCE IN HORN OF ASCCA RATHER THAN USG LOVE FOR EPMG.

2. FADL ALLEGES THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS ASKED CONGRESS TO REPEAT PREVIOUS APPROPRIATION OF \$22 MILLION FOR ARMS AND TRAINING. HE SAYS IN ADDITION THAT USG HAS OFFERED EPMG OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE UP TO \$330 MILLION WORTH OF ARMS LEFT OVER FROM VIETNAM. BUT, ADDS FADL, US IS NOT PLEASED WITH "LEFT WING" POLICIES OF EPMG AND DOUBTS EPMG'S ABILITY TO SOLVE ERITREA PROBLEM IN VIEW OF EASE WITH WHICH AMERICANS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED THERE. THE PURPOSE OF USG ASSISTANCE, HE WRITES, IS TO COUNTER SOVIET

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MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA AND THUS RIGHT THE BALANCE IN THE

HORN OF AFRICA. FINALLY, FADL OPINES THAT THE USG
CALCULATES THAT THE "COMMUNIST ARGUMENT" FOR AID TO EPMG
WILL SWAY ARABS WHO OTHERWISE MIGHT OPPOSE AID TO OPPRESSOR
OF MOSLEM MINORITY IN ETHIOPIA.

3. COMMENT. ARTICLE IS FIRST COMMENTARY WE HAVE SEEN
HERE ON QUESTION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EPMG, WHICH
HAS NOT YET BEEN RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT BORDER
INCIDENTS INVOLVING AIR ACTION OVER SUDANESE TERRITORY.
APPEARANCE OF ARTICLE IN GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS SUGGESTS
THAT GOS NOT NECESSARILY UNHAPPY WITH US MILITARY AID TO EPMG,
DESPITE CLUCKING NOISES THEY MAKE FOR BENEFIT OF ERITREANS.
BREWER

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